

# FIRE ROUTS 40 FAMILIES, WRECKS CHURCH

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## ALL LONG ISLAND ELECTRIC TRAINS TIED UP

### ARREST OF THREE REVEALS MAIL ROBBERY OF \$1,477,000

Abe Attell's Ex-Wife and Two Accused of Selling One of Cancelled Bonds.

CONSPIRACY CHARGED

Some One in Postoffice or Treasury Suspected in July 18 Theft.

The robbery from the mails of \$1,477,000 in United States cancelled securities July 18 last was made known to-day by the arrest of Ethel Bruce, divorced wife of Abe Attell, former prizefighter, at her apartment, No. 135 West 72d Street.

She was charged before United States Commissioner Hitchcock with altering a cancelled \$500 Liberty bond by removing the cancellation mark and disposing of it.

Detective Sergts. James Riley and Cornelius Brown of Police Headquarters and Post Office Inspector Murphy, who arrested Miss Bruce, found in her apartment Harry Cohen, twenty-six, a salesman of No. 33 St. Mark's Place, and Samuel Gold, twenty-six, of No. 33 Cannon Street. They were also arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit the crime for which Miss Bruce was arrested.

Assistant United States Attorney Joyce told Commissioner Hitchcock he did not think it necessary to make the bond for Miss Bruce as high as for the men. Bail was then fixed at \$7,500 for the men and \$5,000 for Miss Bruce, who at once asked if she might make a statement. She was told that anything she said would be used, if available, as evidence against her.

"It is only this," she said, "these boys ought not to be asked for more than they can furnish. I can assure you they know nothing whatever of my purchase of this bond or of its sale. They are altogether innocent."

Commissioner Hitchcock replied that the men had asked for a postponement until Jan. 14 but that, if they were unable to get bail and desired an earlier hearing, it would be granted at once at their request.

Post Office Inspectors went out of town to-day with the expectation of making further arrests.

The police records show Gold has served three months in the penitentiary for attempted theft; is on bail at Robbins, N. J., on a charge of carrying a revolver, and has a case pending against him in Youngstown, O.

Cohen is known at Headquarters under the names Charles Harris and Charles Myers. He is on bail on a charge of carrying cocaine, has served three months for the theft of a taxicab, is under bail in Philadelphia on a charge of being "a professional thief," and has served a term in the penitentiary, besides serving a year of an eighteen-month sentence in Sing Sing, room which he was paroled.

According to the Post Office Inspector, Miss Bruce took the bond recently to Jacob Orgel, a delicatessen dealer of No. 717 Seventh Avenue, and asked him to dispose of it. Orgel took the bond to the Pacific Bank, at

(Continued on Second Page.)

**The Evening World**  
**Will Not Be Published**  
**Monday January 2**

### BE GOOD OR MOVE, MAYOR OLES SAYS TO UNDERWORLD

Oles, Who Takes Office To-Night at Youngstown, O., Announces Vice Crusade.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Dec. 31.—George L. Oles, eccentric Mayor-elect, who takes office at midnight to-night, issued an open letter to the underworld to-day, in which he warned wrongdoers that they will have until Jan. 7 to "love up, drink up, pack up and move or behave."

To-morrow, Oles stated, he will address the city policemen and "give them hell." Last night he held a banquet for the City Council, at which he proposed a campaign of economy, which includes proposals for reducing the Police and Fire Departments.

The letter to the underworld says: "I am going to give the underworld of this city one week's notice to love up, drink up, pack up and move or behave. I am going to give you this week's grace, because I feel down in my heart that it would be a shame to pull you all in and take the last dollar from you in fines and fill our jails to overflowing. Therefore, I am going to give you this notice. I want to state right here that on the 7th day of January, at 12 o'clock the lid is going on. It makes no difference who you are, how much pull you have, how well you know me, or what you think you can do. There will be no excuse accepted or leniency extended to any one."

"This includes all parasites that live on the proceeds of the underworld. In fact, this includes every one that is not a law-abiding citizen. Pass this word to your friends, as there will be no excuses taken, under any consideration."

### WHISKEY POOL FORMED UNDER SHERIFF'S NOSE

Two Get Sounded Also, but It Is All Perfectly Legal.

Two oldtime New Year's jags were pulled off to-day in the presence of Sheriff Werner in the jail yard of White Plains and a whiskey pool was formed under his very nose—and the town supposed to be dry as its name. The Sheriff of Westchester caused to be dumped about \$1,000 worth of wines and liquors which had done its duty as informer. Into the yard came an old bay mare dragging the town garbage wagon and followed by a mutt dog. One sniff and the mutt waded and the old bay mare fell into the pool. When the Sheriff discovered the strategy, both were down and out.

The Sheriff wished the newspapermen a Happy New Year, but that was all.

### CLERK IN POST OFFICE IS SHOT BY ACCIDENT

Associates Were Examining Revolver They Got to Repair Robbers.

Samuel Weinstein, No. 253 Osborne Street, a clerk in the Sub Post Office No. 2581 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, was accidentally shot in the right thigh this morning. He was taken to the Kings County Hospital. His condition is not serious.

Because of recent holdups, Peter Bonnett, another clerk, living at No. 194 Elma Street, got a pistol permit and an automatic. They were examining the revolver when it was discharged. Neither knows just how the accident happened.

**SOBORN—The Genius of Europe.**  
Next Week—Kath's Palace—Advt.

### WHITE LIGHT CAFES TO BE A BIT DAMP OVER THE HOLIDAY

Dry Men Admit They Must Have Evidence of Possession to Act.

AGENTS GET ORDERS

Enforcers Will Don Full Dress and Escort Women in Prominent Restaurants.

Well, it's not going to be so absolutely dry over New Year's.

Prohibition officials admitted to-day that they are not disposed to make arrests in cases where they see liquor on a table and everybody sitting at the table denies ownership or knowledge of the owner.

But if a Prohibition agent should see a person pouring liquor from a bottle he will undoubtedly arrest that person and make a charge of possession. From which it may be inferred that it will be well to be careful and do all your pouring under the table.

The only injunction obtained by the Prohibition agents was issued against Shanley's restaurant in 32d Street, near Sixth Avenue—not the Times Square Shanley's. Reports that injunctions were to be obtained restraining the proprietors of scores of restaurants in the White Light district from selling liquor on New Year's Eve are without foundation.

Chief Enforcement Officer John R. Parsons and his assistant, R. Q. Merritt, summoned fifty agents to headquarters at No. 49 West 27th Street to-day and instructed them as to their duties. These men are to constitute a special squad to go on duty at 7 o'clock this evening and remain until the last greeter of the New Year has gone home. It is probable that two agents will be placed in each of the prominent Broadway restaurants and cafes, but their chief interest will be to see that liquor is not sold.

All the members of the special squad assigned to the high class cabarets and restaurants were instructed to wear their evening clothes if they own same and to rent evening clothes otherwise. It is probable that a number of the special squads will be accompanied by women.

In addition to the special squad, enforcement agents will roam all over the city to-night, dropping in here and there and looking things over. Chief Foreman, of the field forces, will be on duty as general commanding officer at headquarters as long as there is anything doing. But he said that he does not anticipate many arrests because the widespread publicity given to the intent of the officers to enforce the law will of itself tend to dry up the celebration.

Now, what do you think of that?

### MORE DRUNKENNESS IN WILMINGTON, DEL.

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 31.—Wilmington police records show a total of 282 arrests for drunkenness for 1921, compared with 210 for 1920. Although Delaware is commonly described as one of the "driest" states in the East, more than a score of stills were confiscated and thousands of dollars worth of liquors were seized.

The Federal Prohibition officers have not yet completed a definite report.

### MESSANGER OF PEACE SEIZED AS RUM RUNNER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Seizure of the British schooner, Messenger of Peace, with a cargo of liquor off the North Carolina coast was reported to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Clifford to-day by the Coast Guard Station at Elizabeth City, N. C.

CRACKERS, N. C., Dec. 31.—The Messenger of Peace has been known for months along this part of the coast as "The Mystery Ship."

She came into Ocracoke Inlet last August, ran aground on a shoal and had been there ever since until yesterday, when she was floated.

### LONG ISLAND TRAINS TIED UP AS ELECTRIC SERVICE FAILS; THREE CAUGHT UNDER RIVER

Thousands Delayed Between and at Stations at Peak of Holiday Rush.

CABLE BREAKS DOWN.

Steam, Surface and Elevated Lines Jammed by New Year Travellers.

All trains in the electrified zone of the Long Island Railroad came to a dead stop at 1220 P. M. to-day when a high tension cable at the power house in Long Island City went out of business.

Traffic was not resumed until 2:30 P. M.

In addition to the Long Island station and tunnels being affected the branches of the Long Island extending to Port Washington, Far Rockaway, Whitestone, Westbury, Jamaica, Hempstead and Garden City were tied up with trainloads of passengers, some at stations and some between stations. It was said there were three trains in the Long Island tunnel between Manhattan and Long Island City.

The shut-down, which is said to be the worst and most general in several years, continued into the afternoon and every hour brought more congestion at points along the line. Occurring as it did at almost the peak of the rush hour pre-holiday travel, the Long Island stations in Manhattan and in Brooklyn were both soon jammed by commuters and thousands who had intended spending the double holiday out of town.

At the Jamaica Station, which is a transfer point for several divisions and where a change is made from steam to electricity-driven train, inbound passengers for New York and Brooklyn were marooned and the platforms crowded.

The only explanation given to the passengers was that the tie-up appeared to be general and there was little known about it. The usual secrecy was observed insofar as telling the impatient travellers when they might expect to reach their destinations.

Thousands of those stalled at Jamaica made a rush for the elevated and surface cars to complete their journey to New York. In Brooklyn, after a wait of more than an hour, the outgoing elevated line to Jamaica was rushed as a means of getting that far down the island by those who hoped conditions would be better from that point on.

In New York a rush was made for the Long Island Ferry with the hope that the steam roads that operate from that point might be used. In order to facilitate the movement of passengers the passengers on steam lines that were to have changed at Jamaica were sent into Long Island City over the main line. So far as known, however, no outbound trains were operated from there by steam except those regularly scheduled to leave and they were comparatively few.

Officials of the company said the trouble was the burning out of a transformer and switch at the Front Street power house, throwing all the auxiliary machinery out of commission. The power that is supplied for New Jersey was not affected.

### FIRST CARGO OF WHEAT FOR RUSSIA LEAVES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Secretary of Commerce, Hoover, was to-day advised that the first cargo of Russian famine relief grain left Baltimore in a shipping board vessel. The shipment totaled 240,000 bushels.

### GIRL'S FIRE DRILL SAVES 28 FAMILIES IN TENEMENT BLAZE

Public School Pupil Quells Panic When Tenants Flee Mysterious Fire.

For three or four years Bessie Fertig, thirteen, has participated in fire drills at Public School No. 28, in West 40th Street. To-day she had an opportunity to put into practice the lessons she had learned, and her courage and calm orders quelled an incipient panic among the twenty-eight families in the seven-story tenement house at No. 229 West 35th Street when a fire swept through one of the apartments.

When Bessie, who lives with her parents on the top floor, smelled smoke and saw the murky clouds coming up the airshaft which passes through the centre of the building, she went quietly to the bathroom, soaked some washrags in water and, handing one to her mother and another to her father, said, as she placed the third over her own nose and mouth:

"Just breathe through this as you walk down the stairs and you'll be all right. Don't run or get excited; walk and be calm."

Then, on the stairs, she saw scantily dressed women, carrying and dragging children, emerging from the score of doors. Bessie, forgetting her own safety, halted and in loud but restrained tones gave to her neighbors the same directions and none was endangered. But on the sidewalk many of the women grew hysterical or fainted.

The fire was one of the most hysterical in the history of the department. Mrs. Gena McKelvey, wife of Dr. D. J. McKelvey of the Manhattan Hospital, was dusting the windows in the living room of the third floor front apartment when an up-draughted air chair directly in back of her suddenly burst into flame. There was no explosion or other warning sound, no one had sat in the chair and there was no inflammable material around.

Mrs. McKelvey attempted to pick up the heavy piece of furniture to throw it out the window. Her clothing caught fire and in extinguishing the flames her hands, chest and legs were badly burned. In the next room her sister, Mrs. Kate Reincke, was in bed recovering from a serious illness.

In response to Mrs. McKelvey's screams, two young men on their way to work sounded the alarm and rushed into the apartment. As they threw open the front windows Mrs. Rose Bernstein, who lives on the same floor, opened the door to rescue the sick woman, creating a draught which fanned the flames. One of the young men was overcome, but he and his friend left as soon as he revived without giving their names.

Lawrence Moonan, the elevator operator, brought many of the tenants down from the upper stories.

### ARREST MOTORMAN FOR FATAL CRASH ON ELEVATED LINE

One Dead and 30 Injured in Rear-End Collision on Ninth Avenue Line.

500 LIVES IN PERIL.

Hylan Lays Wreck to Old Wooden Cars—Inquiries by Transit Board and I. R. T.

The condition of Anthony C. Albratt, of No. 10 Maple Avenue, Westchester, who was seriously injured when a Ninth Avenue elevated train, of which he was motorman, ran into the rear of the train it was following downtown at 40th Street last night, was such to-day that he could not be removed from Bellevue Hospital to Jefferson Market Court for a preliminary examination. He is under a charge of homicide.

One of the 500 passengers was killed in the accident. Thirty were injured. The lives of all were imperiled, not only by the wrecking of the train but during their precarious escape to the street over the live third rail and the slippery structure.

The dead man was identified at 9 o'clock to-day by Cataldo Mazzolo of No. 537 West 29th Street as his brother, Luigi. The body was mangled and one foot was cut off. Owing to an error in reporting the condition of Mazzolo's body from the morgue, the finding of this foot in the wreckage caused considerable temporary mystery in accounting for the severed member.

The Transit Commission to-day appointed Leroy W. Harkness as executive head of the Russian All-Russian Congress, as a result of the unanimous action of the ninth All-Russian Soviet Congress just before its sessions closed late Wednesday night, according to a radio despatch received here to-day from Moscow.

His retention was brought about by the unanimous re-election by the newly-created executive body of the Congress of M. Kalinine as President of the Executive Committee, which in turn unanimously reappointed Lenin as President of the Council of People's Commissars.

M. Tsurupoff, former Minister of Food, and M. Rykoff, former head of the Economic Council, were appointed Vice Presidents.

According to the despatch, Lenin is expected to reappoint Minister of War Trotsky and the heads of other Soviet commissariats.

### RESIGNS FROM DAIL, OPPOSED TO TREATY

Chief Supporters Favor Peace, So Representative From Monaghan Quits.

DUBLIN, Ireland, Dec. 31 (Associated Press).—John MacIntee, representative of County Monaghan in the Dail Eireann, resigned from that office to-day.

The reason for his resignation, he said, was that he is opposed to the Anglo-Irish Treaty, while his chief supporters are in favor of it.

DUBLIN, Dec. 31 (Associated Press).—The Leinster County Council was listed to-day in the column of similar Irish bodies that have adopted resolutions in favor of ratification of the Anglo-Irish Treaty.

A strong resolution in favor of the treaty also was forwarded to-day from the Standing Committee of the Sinn Fein Executive Board of South Leinster. The North Leinster Sinn Fein Executive Board forwarded a similar resolution.

### LAWYER KILLED IN 12-STORY FALL

Benjamin Phillips of No. 1 West 64th Street Drops From Window.

Benjamin Phillips, an attorney living at No. 1 West 64th Street, fell or jumped from a window of his apartment on the twelfth floor into the court yard this afternoon. He was instantly killed.

### FORTY FAMILIES DRIVEN OUT, CHURCH DESTROYED BY FIRE; 57TH ST. Y.M.C.A. MENACED

Five Alarms Sounded for Blaze Believed to Have Started in Choir—Big Apartment House Adjoining Ignited.

The Protestant Episcopal Church of Zion and St. Timothy, at No. 333 West 57th Street, running through to West 56th Street, was completely destroyed by a fire which started in the organ loft at the West 56th Street end. The flames communicated to the Clintonia apartment house, adjoining the church to the west on the 57th Street side, and forty families were driven out.

Two apartment houses to the east escaped damage. Silverware, paintings and books valued at many thousands of dollars were destroyed in the church.

The West Side Y. M. C. A. Building is two doors east of the church. Preparations were made to vacate this building before the fire was under control.

Deputy Chief Martin, responding to a third alarm, sent in a fourth and then a fifth, because of the danger to the surrounding apartment houses. The congestion of fire apparatus tied up all traffic in Eighth and Ninth Avenues and the jam extended to Broadway.

Dr. Frederick Burgess, the rector, thinks the fire started from a defective electric wire. The interior of the church was of varnished wood and there were many inflammable Christmas decorations. The blaze spread so rapidly that the interior was a burning mass when the firemen arrived in response to the first alarm.

The heat of the fire soon burst the large plate glass windows and the roof on the south end caved in. Firemen fought the blaze from the roofs of the apartment houses to the east and west. The tenants in the apartment houses to the east, which are seven story buildings, were ordered out by the firemen.

The first fire companies responding to the alarm entered the church and with lines of hose and axes started toward the altar and organ loft, which were then ablaze. There were eighteen men in the party.

When they were half way through the auditorium a back draft caused an explosion which blew the firemen off their feet and shattered all the windows in the rear of the structure. Under orders of their commanding officer, the firemen fled. They had barely reached the sidewalk when the false ceiling of the church caved in.

Dr. Burgess estimates that the loss will exceed \$200,000. The walls left standing will have to be razed.

Deputy Chief Martin does not agree with the theory of Dr. Burgess that the fire originated from defective wiring in the organ loft, although Dr. Burgess was in the church when the fire was first seen. According to the firemen, the blaze originated in the cellar from defective furnace flues and burned up through the floor and spread to the organ loft. The piping cost \$25,000.

The towers of the church were used as nesting places by hundreds of pigeons. While the fire was at its height the birds disappeared, but they returned when the flames had been extinguished and circled around and around their ruined homes.

Zion and St. Timothy's Church was built twenty-seven years ago and was considered a fine example of architecture. The original Zion Church organized in 1867 stood at 50th Street and Seventh Avenue.

### ITALIAN BOURSES TO SETTLE ON JAN. 4

ROME, Dec. 31, (Associated Press).—At the instance of the Ministers of Industry and the Treasury, the King today signed a decree postponing until Jan. 4 the December settlement which was to have occurred to-day on all the Italian Bourses.